Eric Milner-White & Philip Moore

Via Crucis

A devotion for Passiontide
with prayers and organ music

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Via Crucis

A devotion for Passiontide

Prayers by Eric Milner-White
& organ music by Philip Moore

The Gathering

1. The Agony in Gethsemane
2. The Kiss of Judas
3. Art thou the Christ?
4. The Denial
5. Pilate washes his hands
6. The Scourging
7. Bearing the Cross
8. St Simon of Cyrene
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Preface

'Via Crucis' is a devotion for Passiontide, offering a ruminative resource for prayer and reflection on Christ's death. It has a structure that is similar to the Stations of the Cross, used for many centuries.

The service contains a selection of deeply felt but restrained prayers by Eric Milner-White. These are interspersed with descriptive organ pieces by Philip Moore, which act as musical responses to the words, and range from meditative to more dramatic, harrowing moods. Together, the prayers and music combine to provide a beautifully fresh perspective on Lenten themes.

The choice of prayers by Eric Milner-White mirrors a selection of stations used in 'Common Worship: Times and Seasons' for The Way of the Cross. When the prayers were first published in 1950, they were immediately acclaimed as a most inspiring contribution for use during Lent and Passiontide.

'Via Crucis' could be used as a focus for meditation or a contemplation of spiritual issues. Places of worship could add images or movement as a way of developing or enhancing the suggested Order of Service, which already includes Philip Moore's imaginative music for organ.

In addition, hymns or anthems may be added at suitable points, so as to supplement the basic structure.

Composer's notes about the music

All the reflections, apart from the last, are based on the opening four bars of the first reflection.

Registrations marks are only suggestions and players may use their imagination, especially when playing on a large instrument. Judicious use of the Swell pedal is encouraged where appropriate, in addition to the marks for crescendos and diminuendos already there.

I hope it is obvious which reflections should be played in strict time and which may be played with rubato. In the fifth reflection, *Pilate washes his hands*, I have adopted the German pronunciation of Barabbas, partly because Bach's *St Matthew Passion* is so ingrained in my mind, and also because the English emphasis seems weak in comparison.

The tranquil end to the seventh reflection, *Bearing the Cross*, is a foretaste of what must have been a blessed relief to Christ when St Simon came forward to carry the cross. The following reflection illustrates this brief moment of rest.

The twelfth reflection, *The Darkness*, is intended to portray the eventual triumph of light over darkness. In the fourteenth reflection, *The Burial*, I have in mind a procession of mourners to a tomb.

The metronome marks are a guide, but should be followed as closely as possible. In particular the last reflection may seem extremely slow, but this is intentional. Based on the hymn tune *Rockingham (When I Survey the Wondrous Cross)*, it will, I hope, anchor listeners into a familiar world of words and music associated with Holy Week.

Philip Moore
Rectory Cottage 16 : ii : 21

Via Crucis

Order of Service

The Gathering

Let us pray.

Prayers
O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray thee to set thy Passion, Cross and death between thy judgement and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Vouchsafe to the living mercy and grace, to the dead pardon and rest, to thy holy Church peace and concord, and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; who with the Father and the Holy Ghost livest and reignest world without end. **Amen.**

The glorious Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ bring us to the joys of Paradise. **Amen.**

1. The Agony in Gethsemane

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.
All **Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.**

Prayer
Be thou ever blessed, O Lord Christ, for thy sovereign mercy; who, though assailed by loneliness, and a dread agony, didst choose to die for our redemption, and make both earth and heaven rejoice; and now reignest, the First and the Last and the Living One, God, for ever and ever.

Musical Reflection 1, page 10

2. The Kiss of Judas

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.
All **Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.**

Prayer
O Lamb of God, who with guileless lips didst gently touch those that were full of deceit: receive us thy weak and unfaithful friends with like forbearance, and by the very kiss of thy pardon convict us of our sin; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, world without end.

Musical Reflection 2, page 12

3. Art thou the Christ?

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.
All **Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.**

Prayer
O Lord Jesus Christ, who, bound and alone, didst proclaim the Messiah before the High Priest and elders of thy people: make plain, we beseech thee, the perpetual truth amid the transient show; and open our ears to hear, our eyes to perceive, and our lips to declare, that thou with the Father and the Holy Ghost art one only eternal and glorious God, world without end.

Musical Reflection 3, page 13

4. The Denial

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.
All **Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.**

Prayer
O Lord Jesus Christ, look upon us with those eyes of thine wherewith thou didst look upon Peter in the hall, that with Peter we may repent and, by thy same love, be forgiven.

O Lord Jesus Christ, turn thy face from our sins, but turn it not from us, for thine endless mercies' sake.

Musical Reflection 4, page 15

5. Pilate washes his hands

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.
All **Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.**

Prayer
Almighty God, the Judge of the whole earth: suffer us not to falter in courage nor to palter with justice after the manner of Pontius Pilate; who when he saw that a tumult was made, washed his hands of just dealing, and delivered the guiltless to death, even thine only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; who now liveth and reigneth in the glory of the eternal Trinity, God, for ever and ever.

Musical Reflection 5, page 18

6. The Scourging

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.
All **Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.**

Prayer
O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who wast bruised for our iniquities, yet in thy love and in thy pity didst redeem us: we beseech thee, restrain us from the sins that scourge thee again, and others and ourselves no less: by thy merciful power, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Musical Reflection 6, page 21

7. Bearing the Cross

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.
All **Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.**

Prayer
O Lord, thou lover of men, who, lifting the Cross upon thy shoulder, barest in symbol and in truth all the sins of the world: strengthen us to heed not the tribulations which are but for a season, but to bear cheerfully thy yoke unto the glory which passes not away; where with the Father and the Holy Ghost thou livest and reignest, God, world without end.

Musical Reflection 7, page 23

8. St Simon of Cyrene

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.
All **Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.**

Prayer
Grant, O Lord, that we on whose forehead hath been set the sign of the Cross, may be ready and resolute to bear the Cross itself, in company with Simon of Cyrene and all thy saints that have endured for thee and with thee; who now livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

Musical Reflection 8, page 27

9. Daughters of Jerusalem

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.
All **Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.**

Prayer
Vouchsafe, O Lord God, that, as we thy sons and daughters look upon the Saviour for our sakes ready to die, we may mourn not for him, whose pains were our glory, but for ourselves, whose shames are his wounds: and may repent unto thee, who with the same thy Son and the Holy Ghost art one God, holy and pitiful, for ever and ever.

Musical Reflection 9, page 30

10. The Nailing

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.
All **Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.**

Prayer
O Lord Jesus Christ, who wast silent when men nailed thee to the Cross, and by pain didst triumph over pain: pour thy Spirit on thy servants who suffer, that in their quietness and courage thou mayest triumph again, and redeem every sorrow: who livest and reignest in the glory of the eternal Trinity, God, world without end.

Musical Reflection 10, page 32

11. Seven Words

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.
All **Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.**

Prayer
O Lord Jesus Christ, who from out thy silence upon the Cross didst bequeath to thy Church Seven Words: grant that we may ponder them as the inexhaustible Gospel of thy love and of the world's redemption; and learn likewise both by speech and silence to glorify our Father in heaven; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end.

Musical Reflection 11, page 34

12. The Darkness

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.
All **Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.**

Prayer
Grant, O Lord God, that while the darkness cometh up over the whole land to cover the dying Saviour, thy dear Son, we may behold the marvellous light that shineth from his Cross, and be led by it to the kingdom, where with thee and the Holy Ghost he liveth and reigneth, God, world without end.

Musical Reflection 12, page 38

13. The Death of the Lord Jesus

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.
All **Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.**

Prayer
Blessed be thy Name, O Jesu, Son of the most high God; blessed be the sorrow thou sufferedst when thy holy hands and feet were nailed to the tree; and blessed thy love when, the fulness of pain accomplished, thou didst give thy soul into the hands of the Father; so by thy Cross and precious Blood redeeming all the world, all longing souls departed and the numberless unborn; who now livest and reignest in the glory of the eternal Trinity, God for ever and ever.

Musical Reflection 13, page 42

14. The Burial

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.
All **Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.**

Prayer
Gather us, O Father of mercy, round the body of thy dear Son, slain and still; that by such proof and power of love we may be drawn into one living body of faith and praise, close to each other, close to him; who now livest and reignest with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

Musical Reflection 14, page 44

The Conclusion

Prayer
Bury our sins, O blessed Saviour, in thy grave; and make us to rise up in the life of grace, and abide and advance in it, until we come to the city of light and joy; where with the Father and the Holy Spirit thou livest and reignest, God, world without end.

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom in the words our Saviour taught us.

All
Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Prayer
Almighty everlasting God, who hast reared from earth unto heaven a mighty Tree, standing for ever, whereon before the face of men hangeth a Man, stretched and nailed, rejected, dying and alone: O thou that art true and shewest only truth, grant us to fear not to suffer with him, die with him and be buried with him, that we may also be made alive with him and glorified together in the heavenly places; where now he reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

Closing Musical Reflection 15, page 46

15. The Crown

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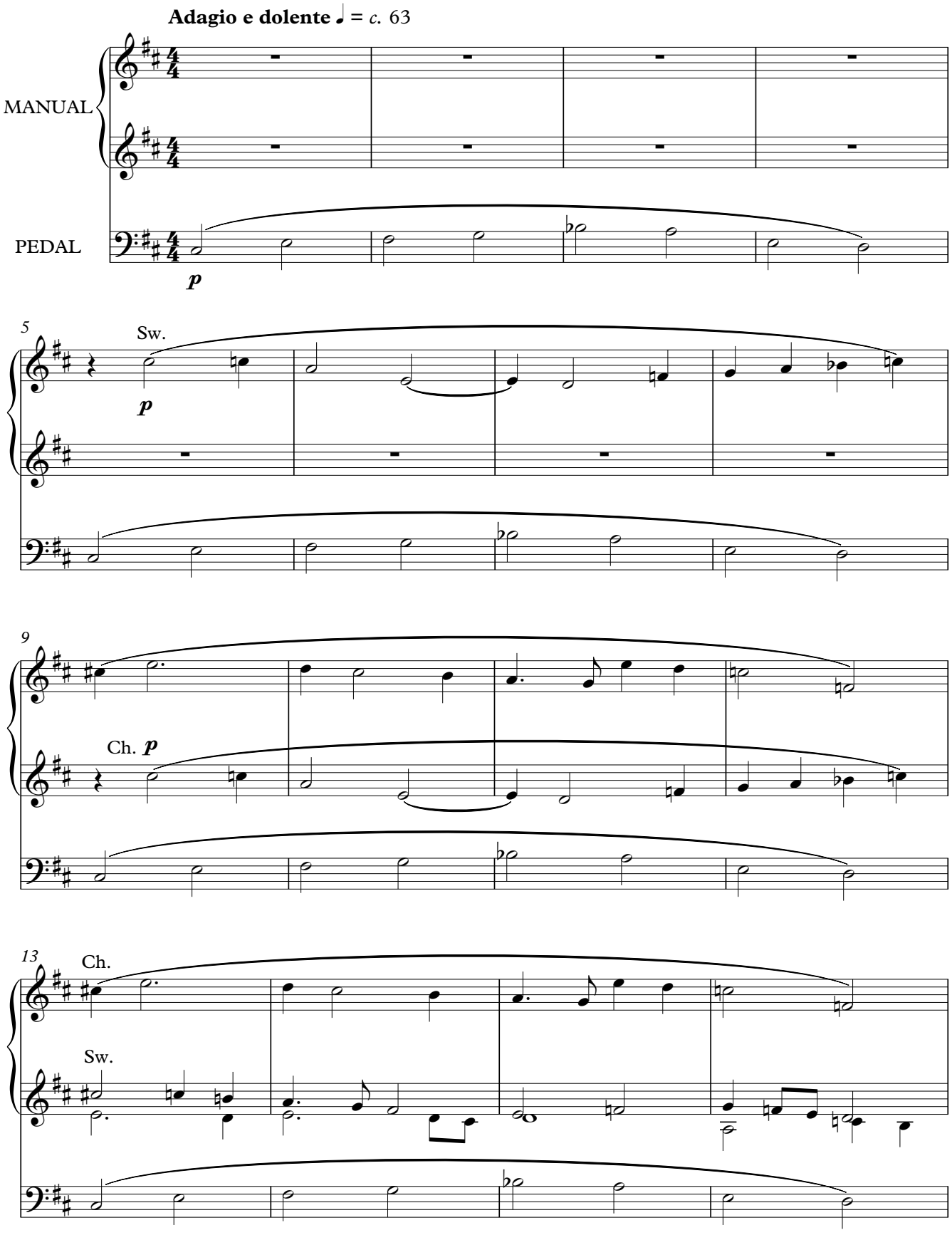
Music by Philip Moore (b. 1943), published by Encore Publications.

I. The Agony in Gethsemane

PHILIP MOORE



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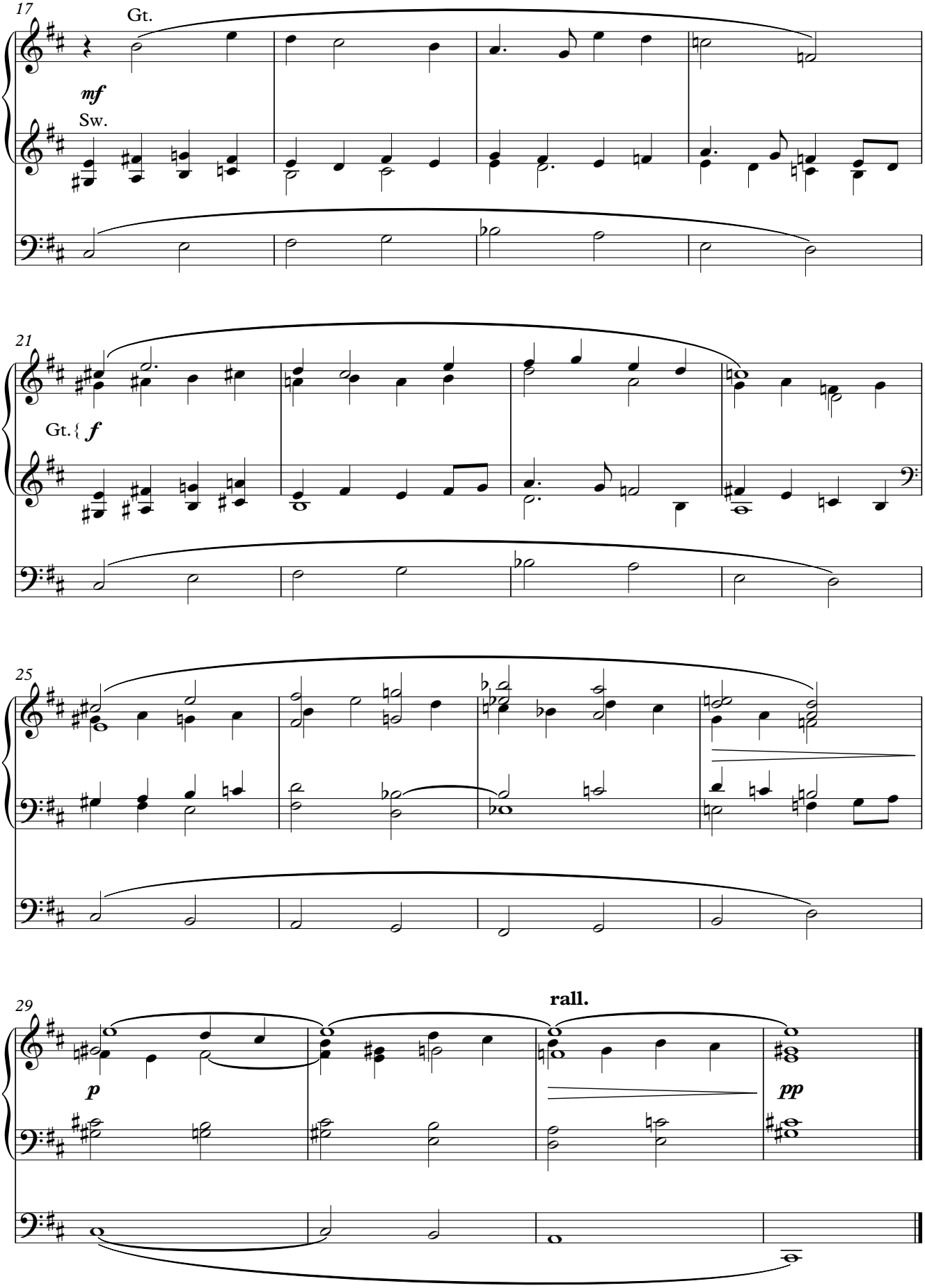
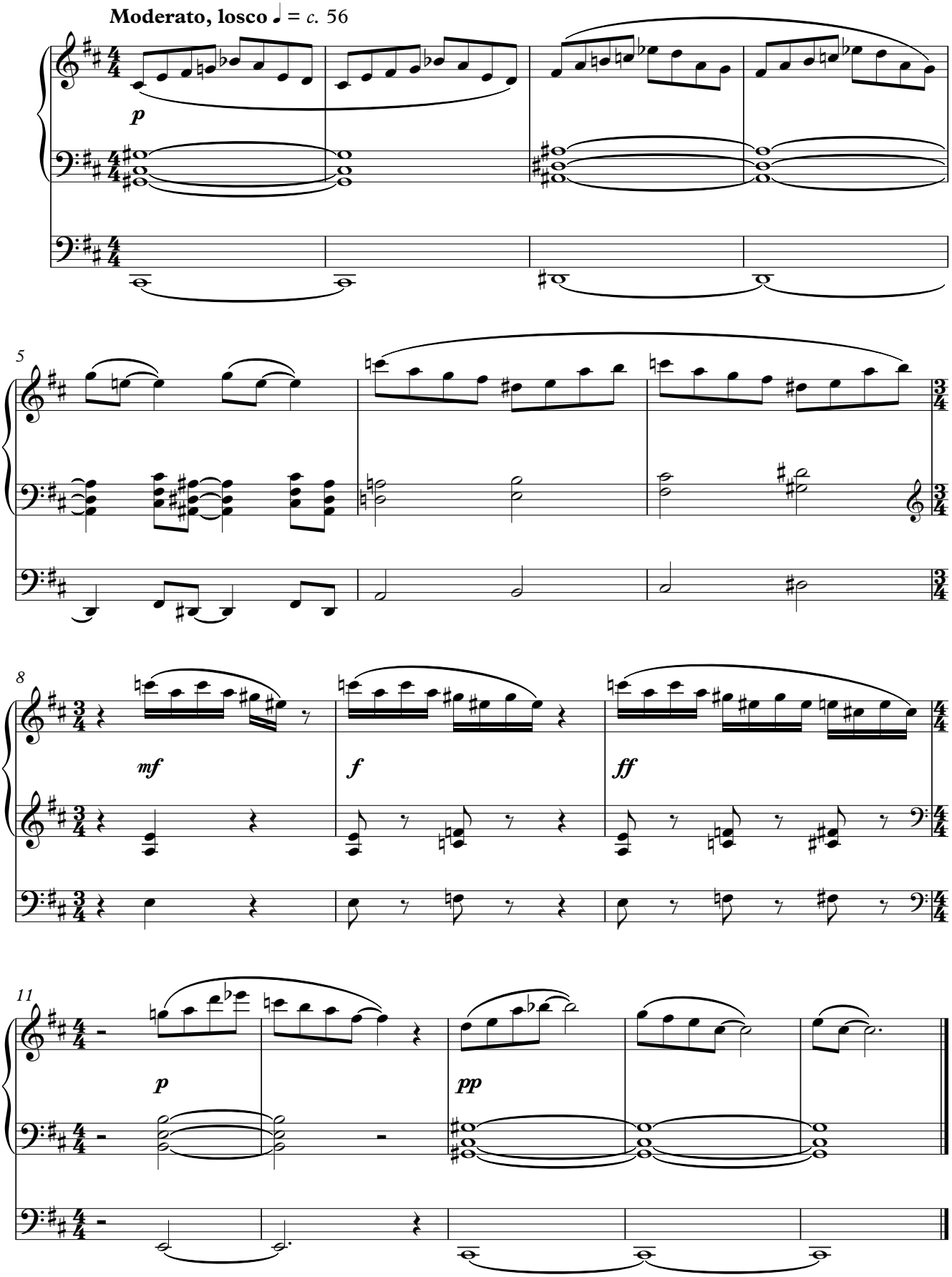
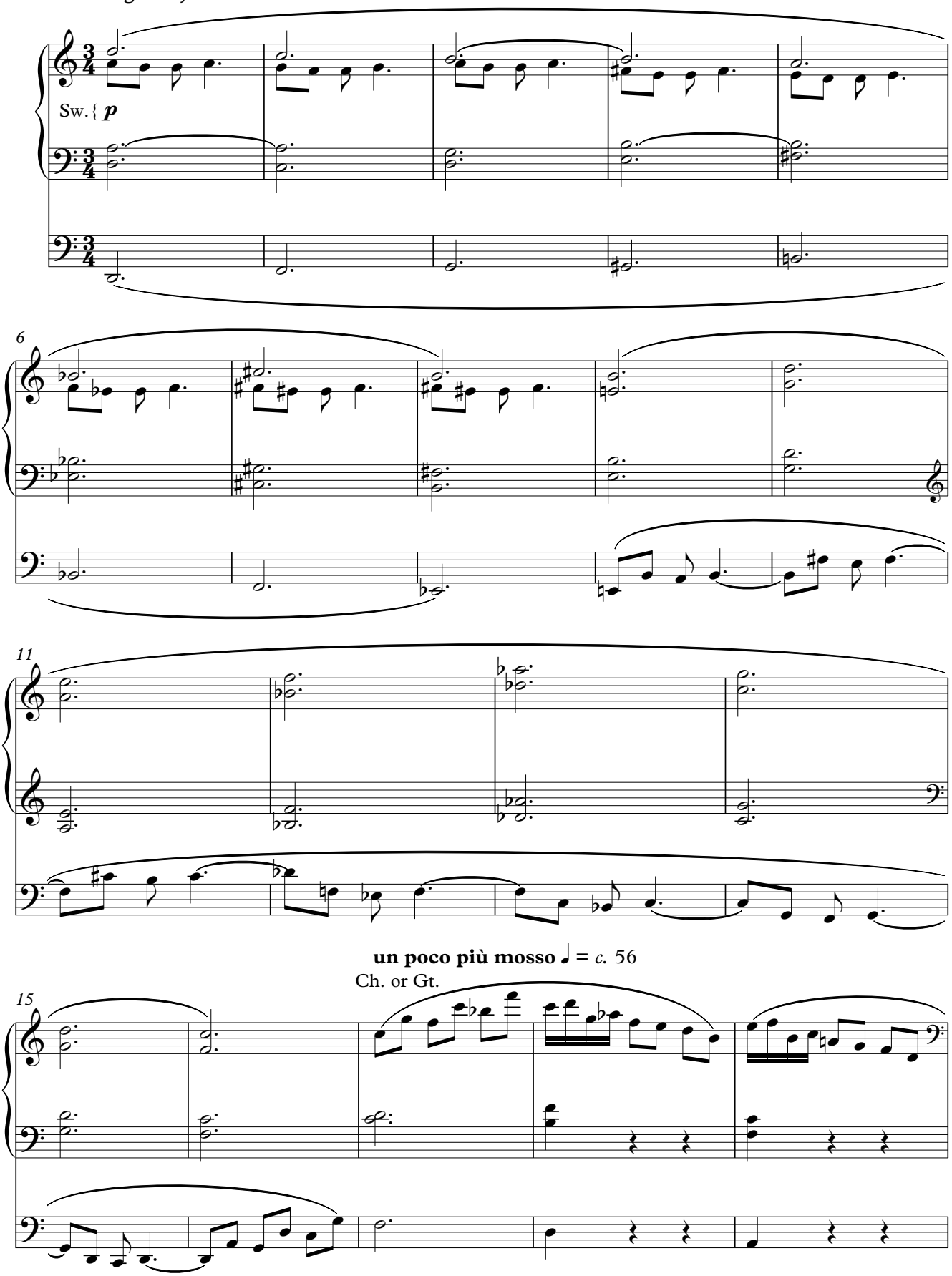

17
Gt.
mf
Sw.
21
Gt.
f
25
29
rall.
p
pp

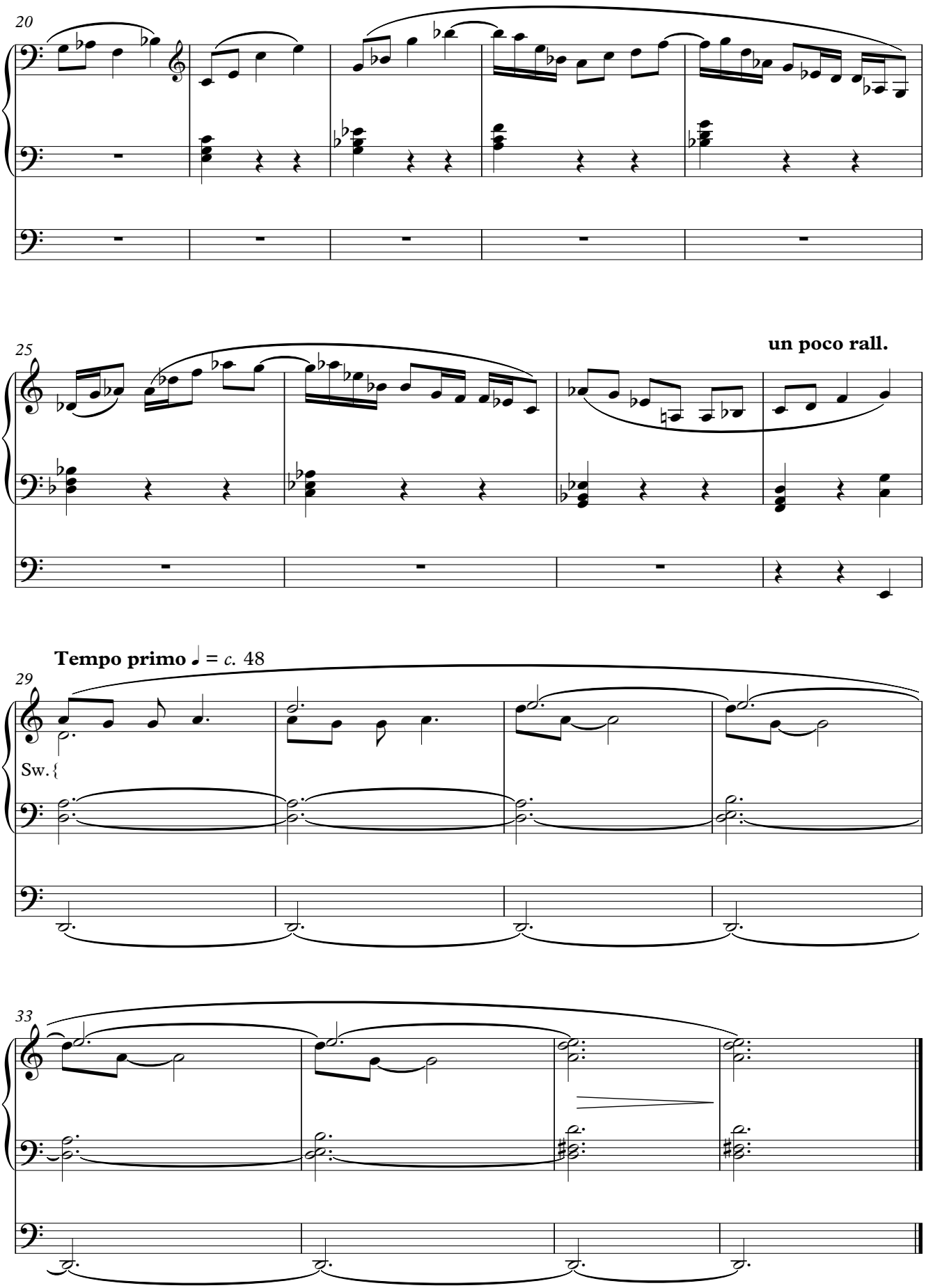
2. The Kiss of Judas



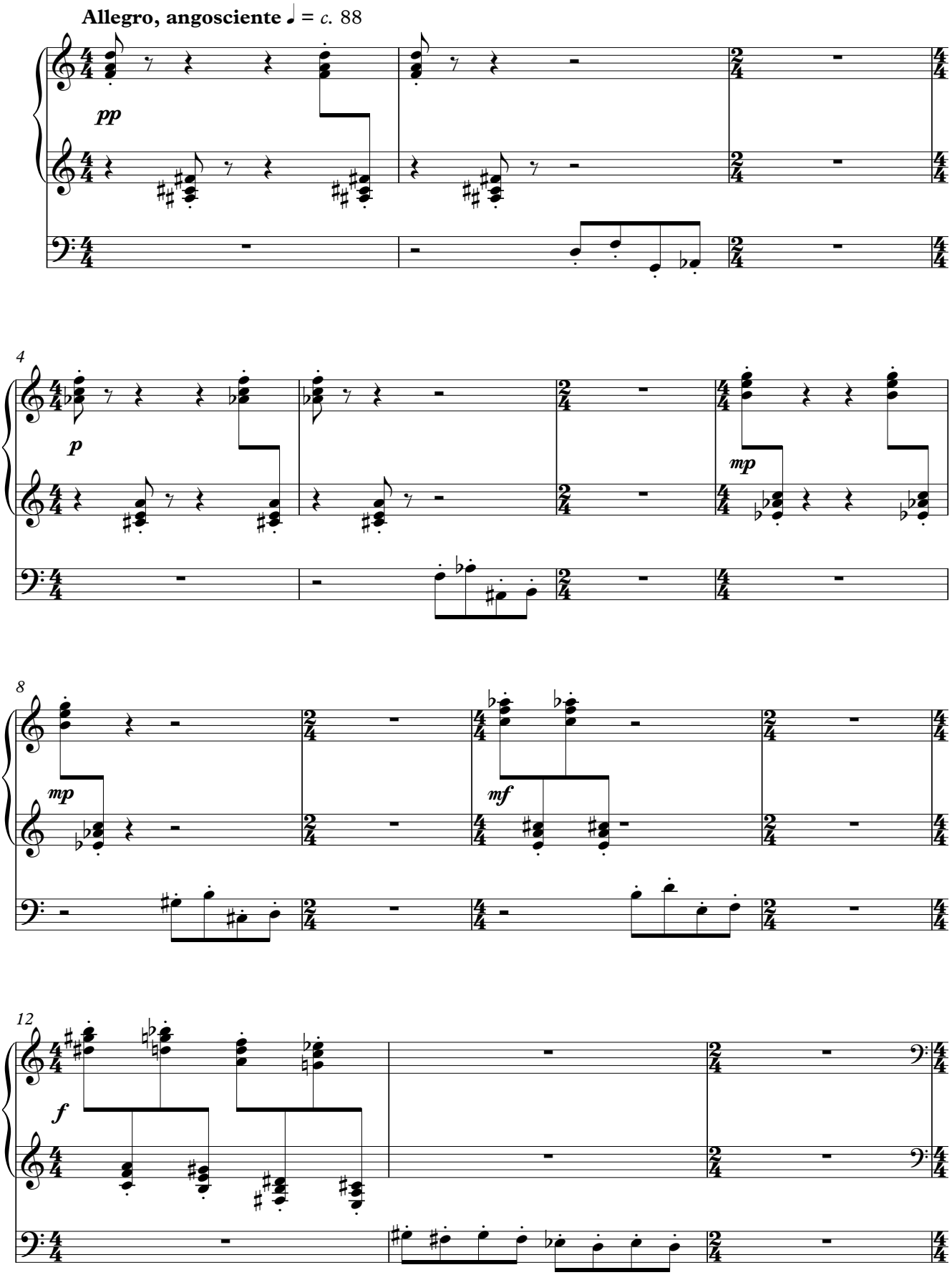
3. Art thou the Christ?

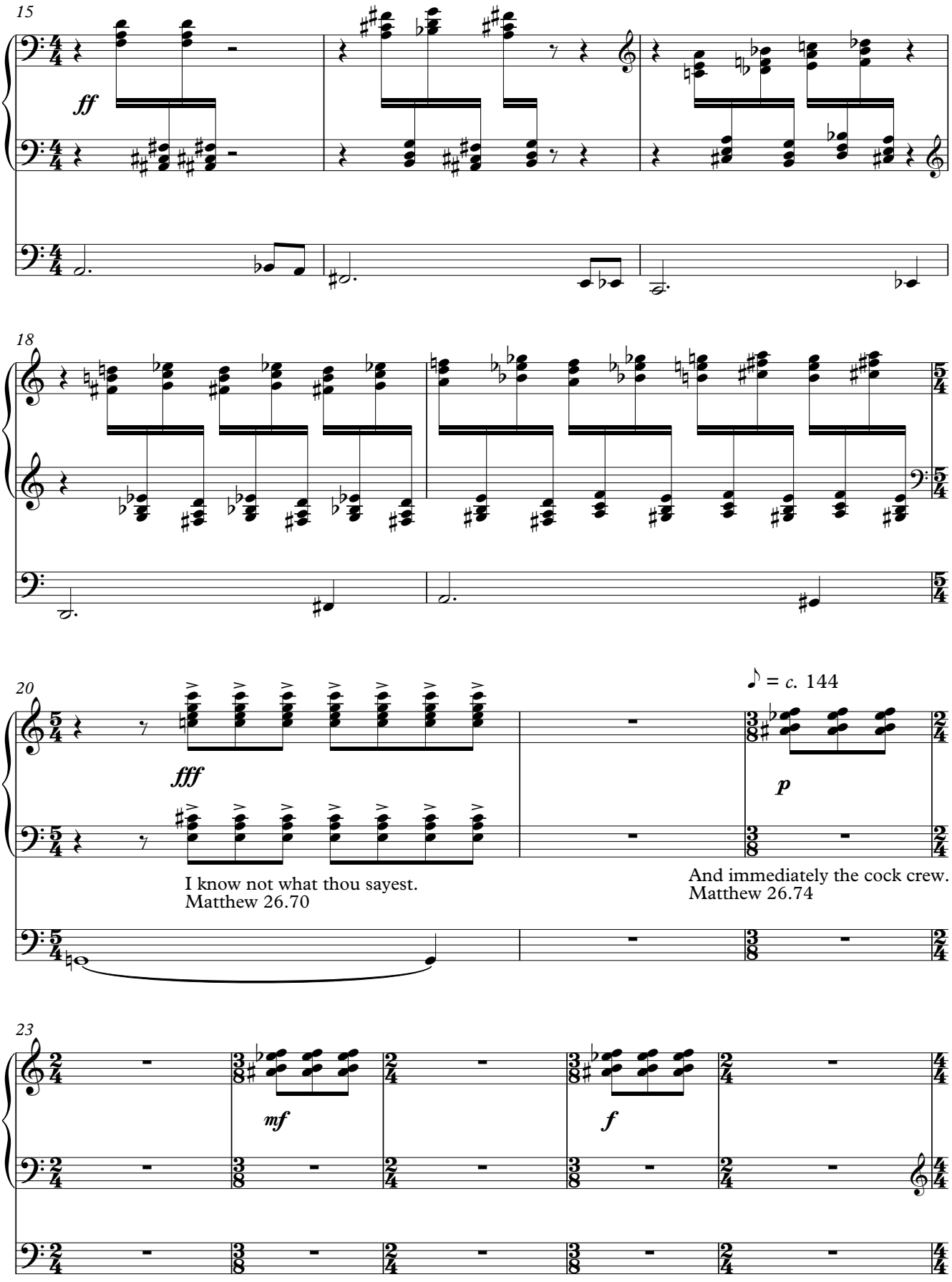
Adagietto, dolcemente ♩ = *c.* 48

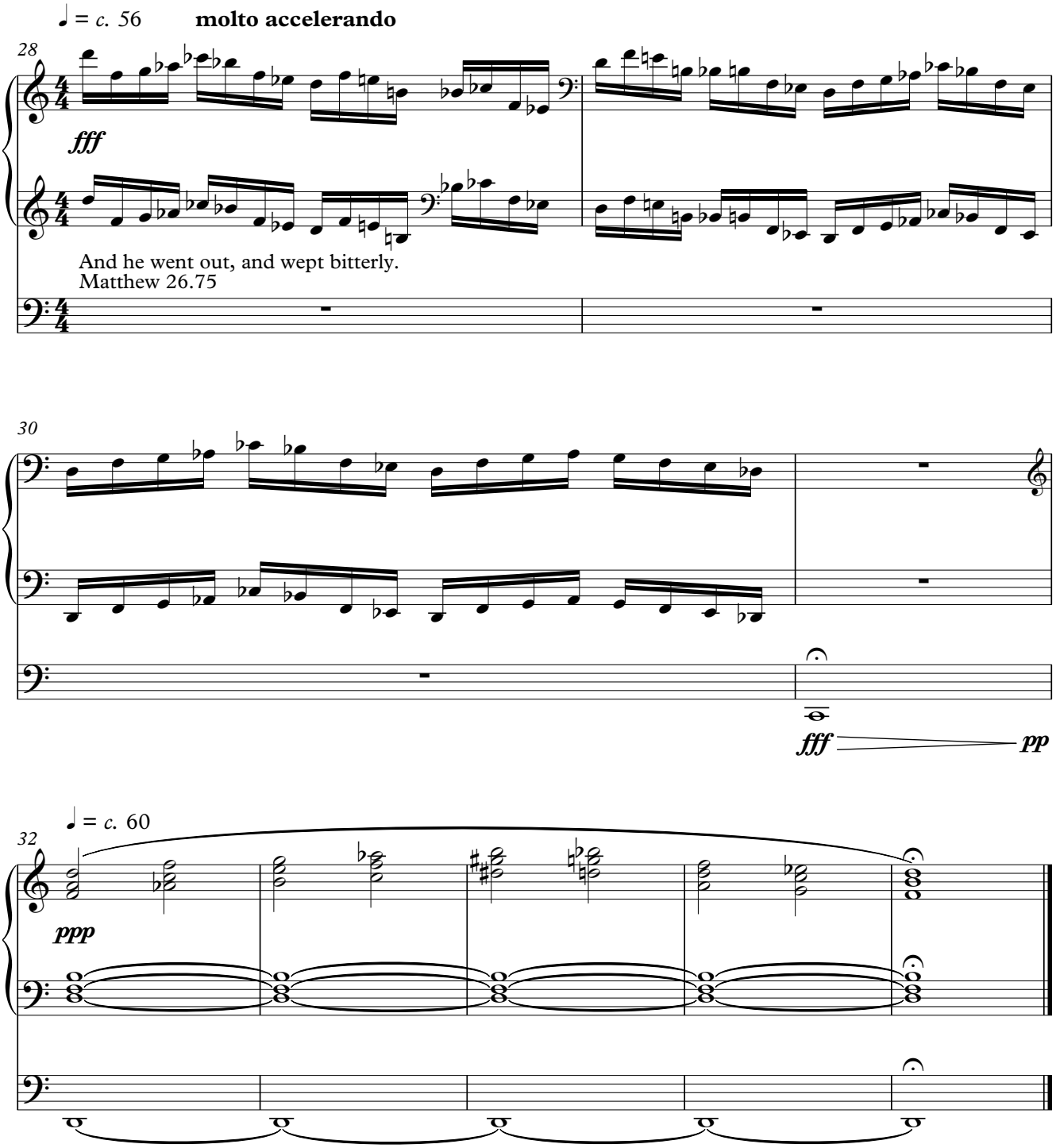



20
25
un poco rall.
Tempo primo ♩ = c. 48
29
Sw.
33

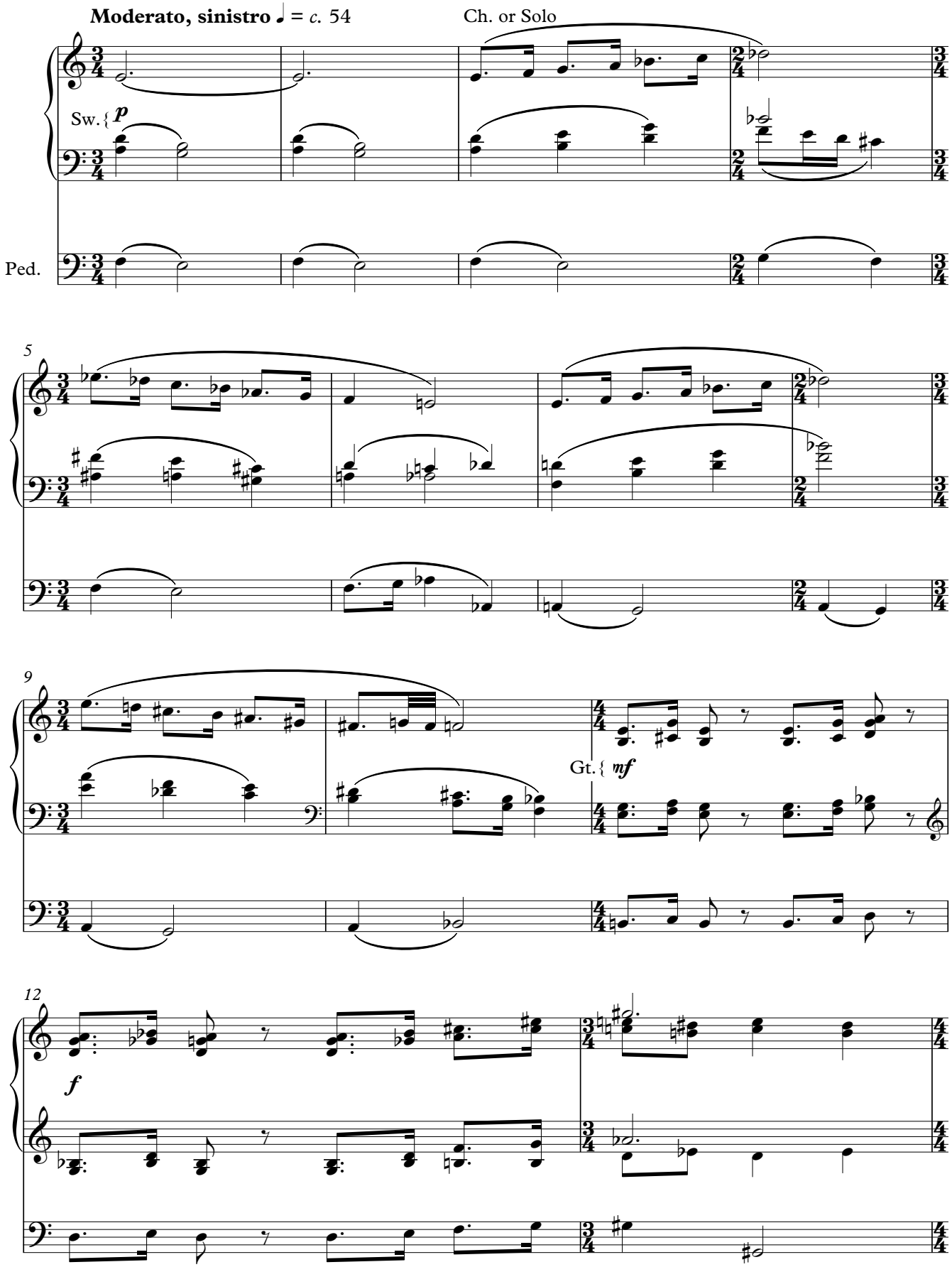
4. The Denial

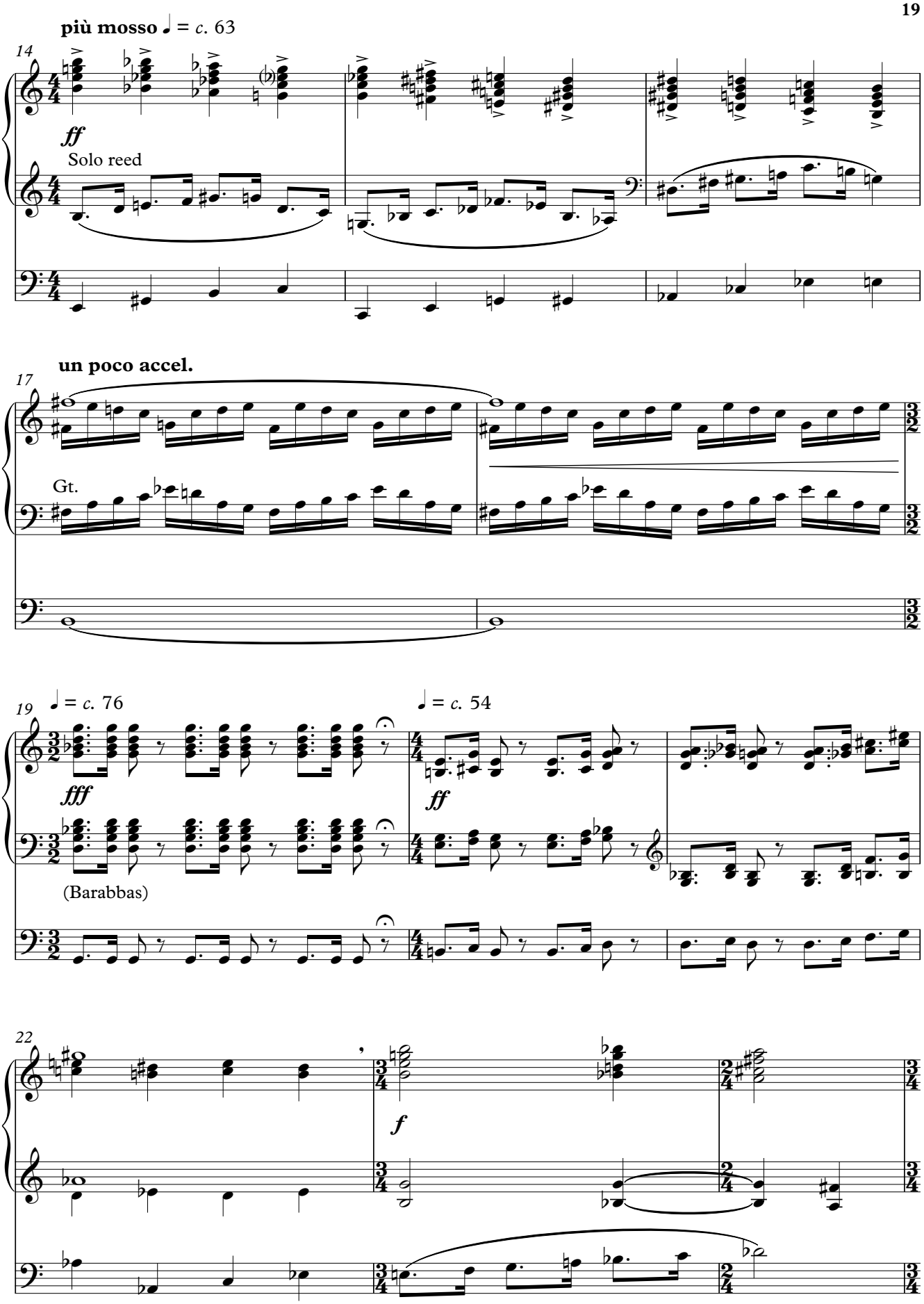


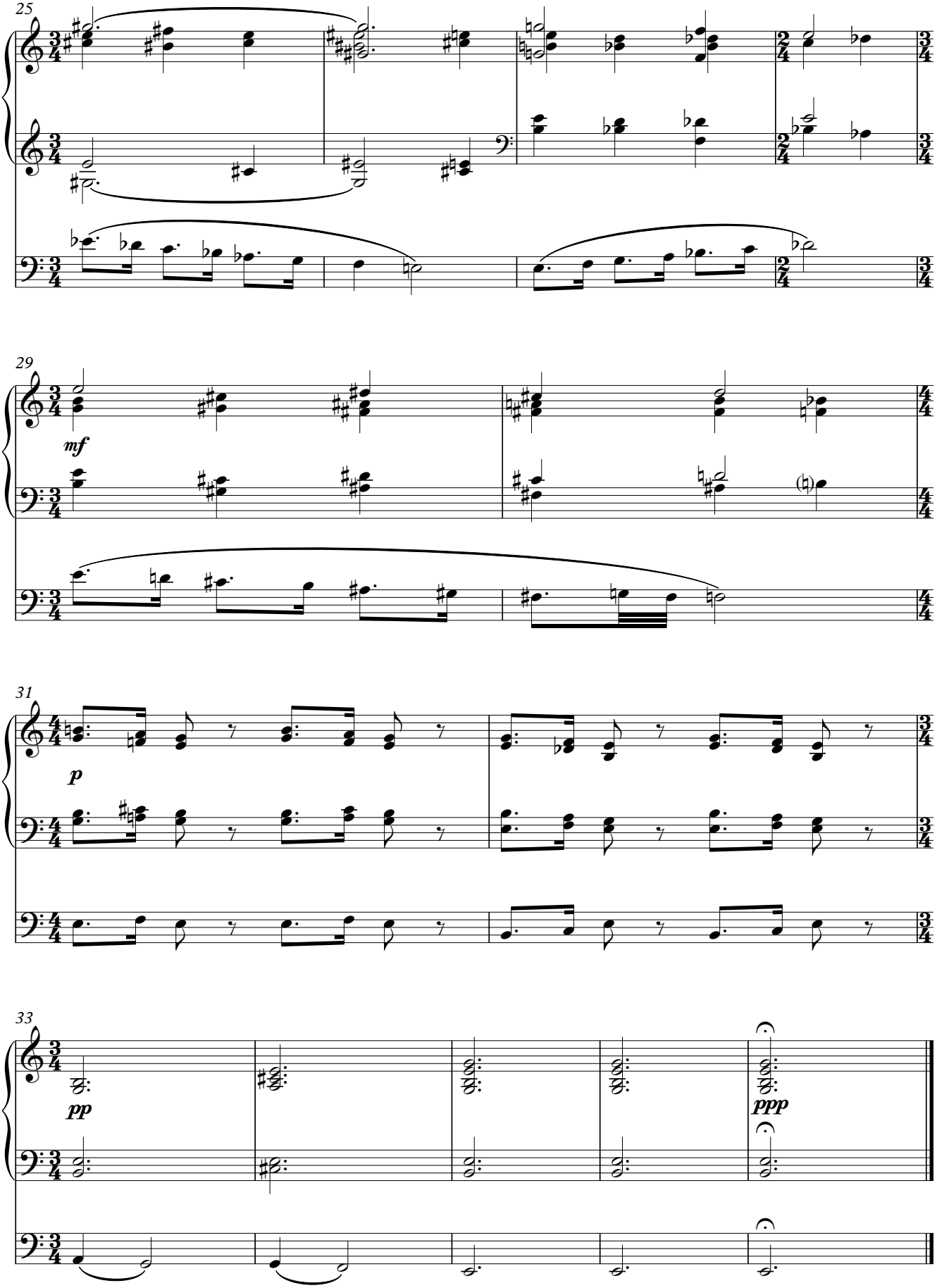

15
ff
18
20
fff
I know not what thou sayest.
Matthew 26.70
♪ = c. 144
p
And immediately the cock crew.
Matthew 26.74
23
mf
f


♩ = c. 56
molto accelerando
28
fff
And he went out, and wept bitterly.
Matthew 26.75
30
fff
pp
♩ = c. 60
32
ppp

5. Pilate washes his hands

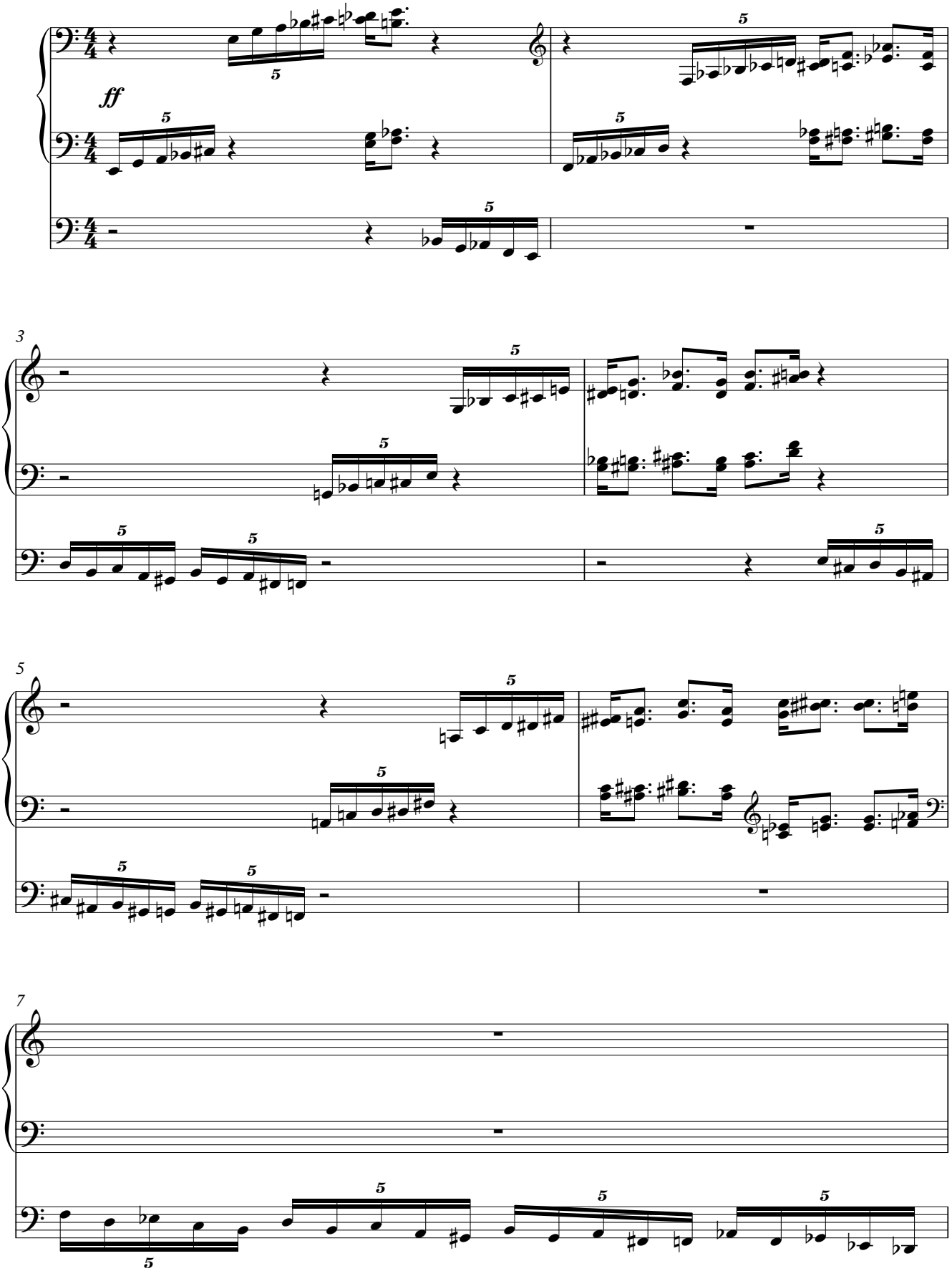


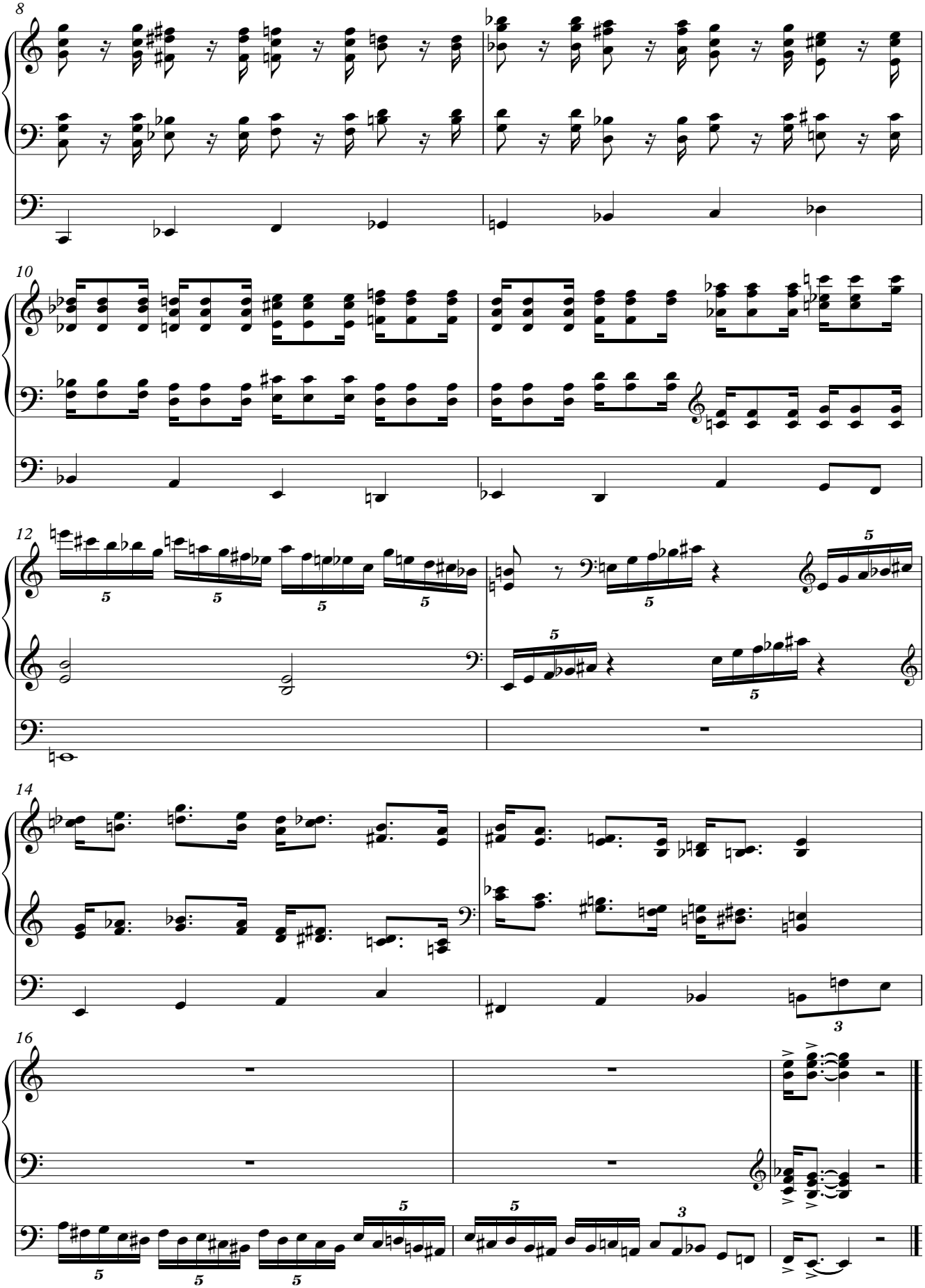

più mosso ♩ = c. 63
14
ff
Solo reed
un poco accel.
17
Gt.
19
♩ = c. 76
fff
(Barabbas)
♩ = c. 54
ff
22
f


25
29
mf
31
p
33
pp
ppp

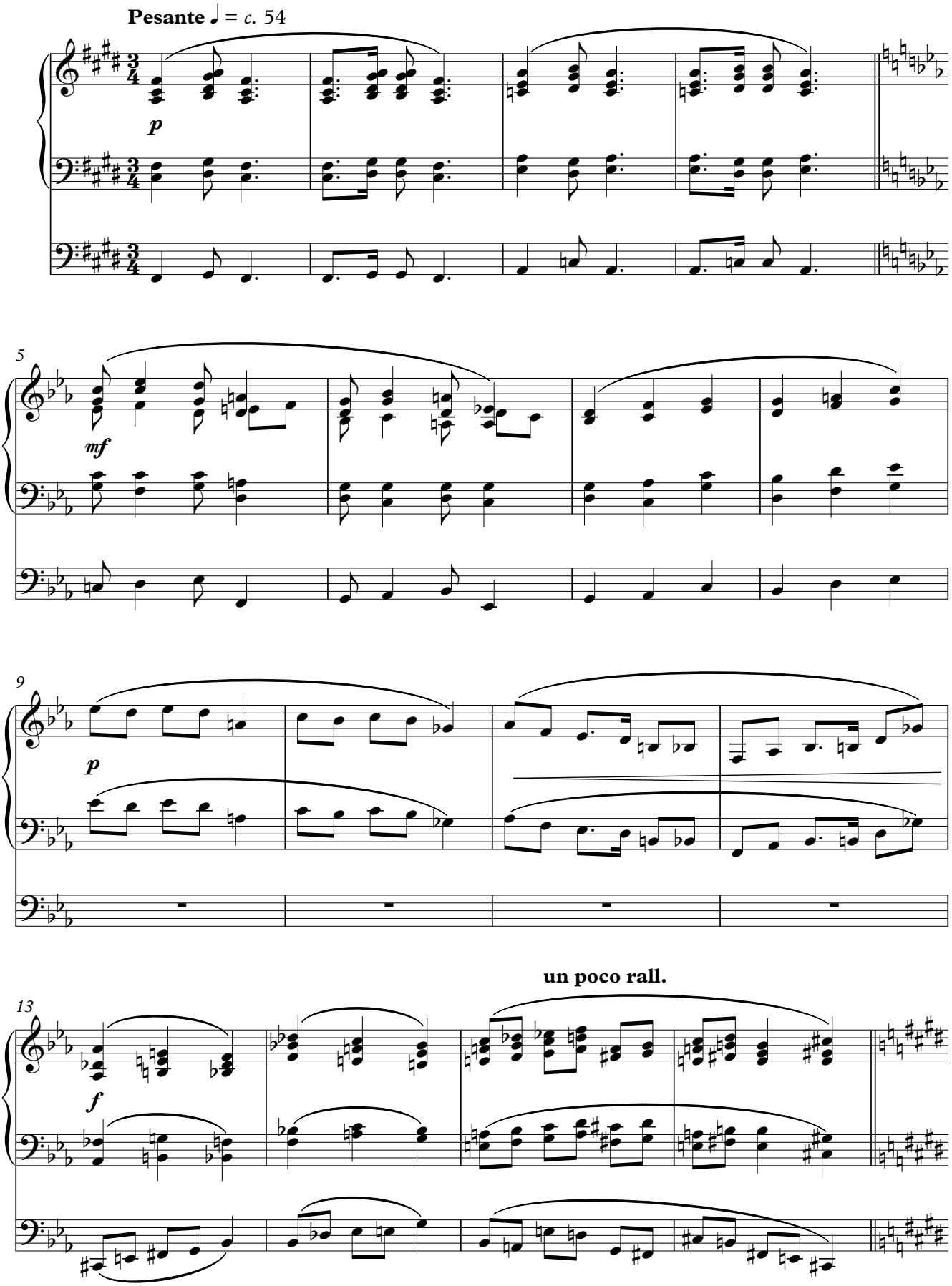
6. The Scourging

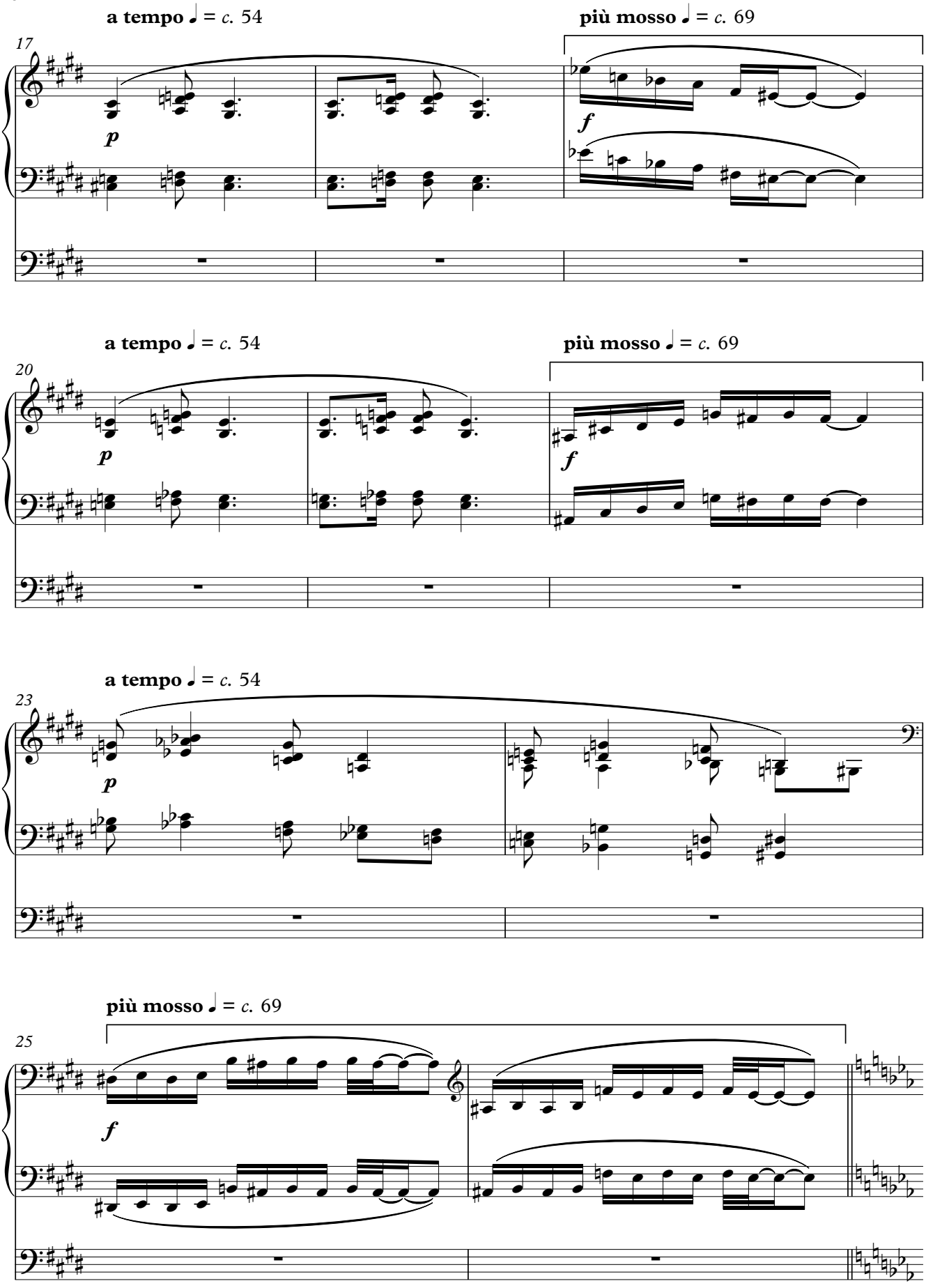
Tempo rubato, brutale ♩ = *c.* 60

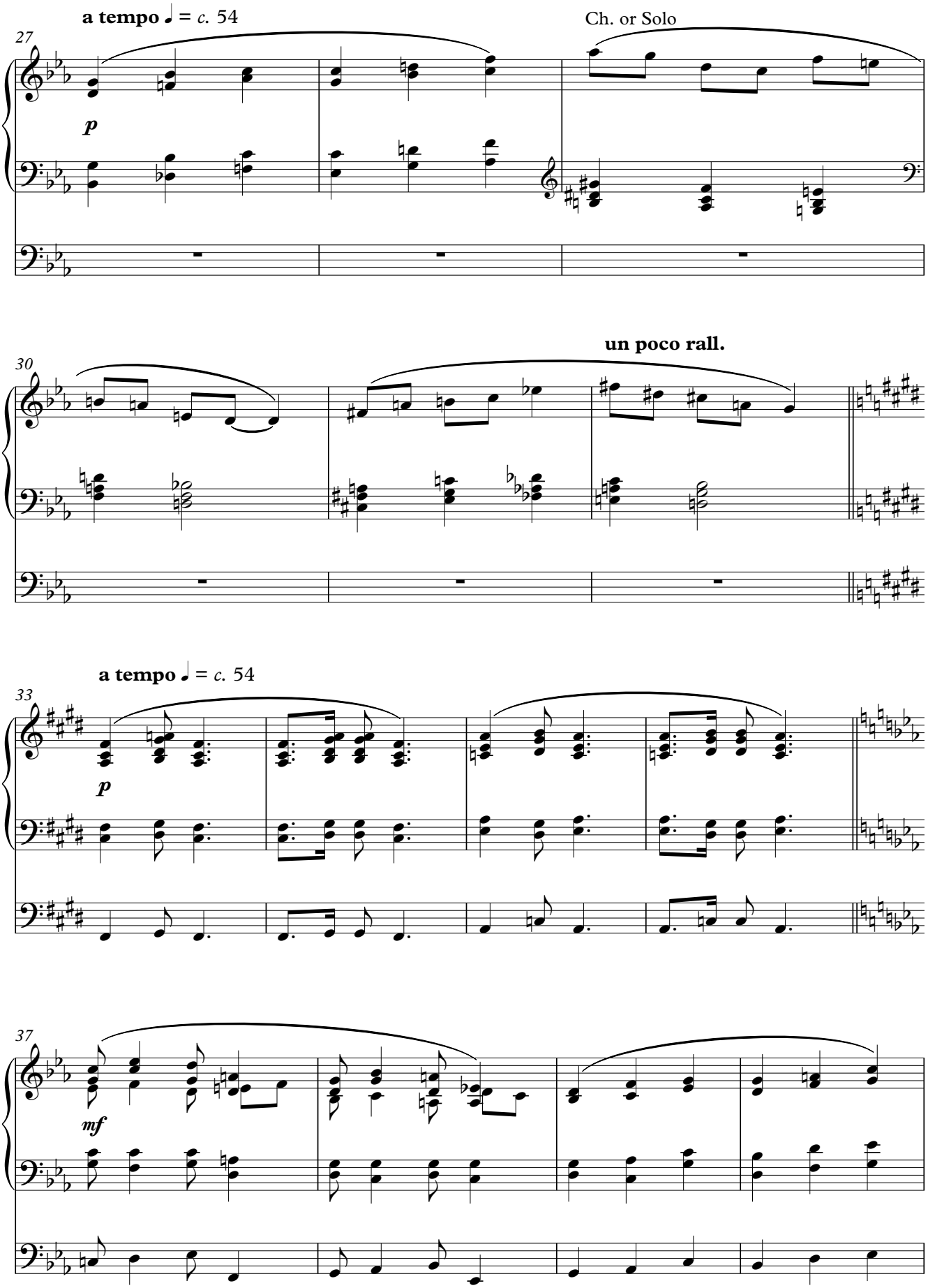


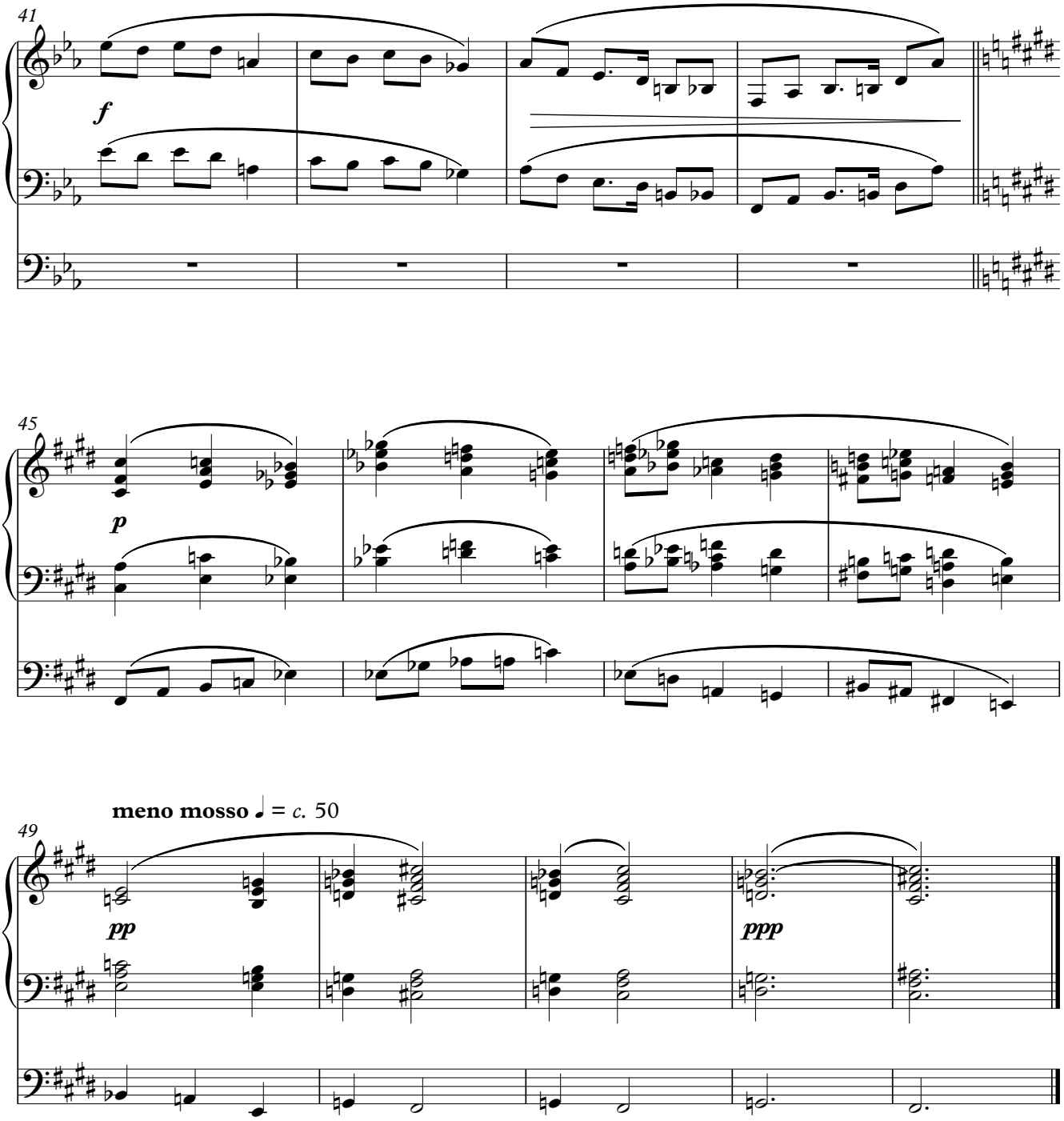

8
10
12
14
16

7. Bearing the Cross




a tempo ♩ = c. 54
più mosso ♩ = c. 69
17
p
f
a tempo ♩ = c. 54
più mosso ♩ = c. 69
20
p
f
a tempo ♩ = c. 54
23
p
più mosso ♩ = c. 69
25
f


a tempo ♩ = c. 54
Ch. or Solo
27
p
un poco rall.
30
a tempo ♩ = c. 54
33
p
37
mf


41
f
45
p
meno mosso ♩ = c. 50
49
pp
ppp